

AMENDMENT 0001 TO SOLICITATION
DTFAWA-10-R-00031

The purpose of this amendment is to make changes to the SIR and to provide a list of questions received to date and corresponding responses. Accordingly, the SIR is amended as follows:

(1) Section F.2 “Exercise of Option” is revised as indicated below:

a. The following paragraph has been amended -

FROM:

The Government may exercise the option for the work set forth below by the Contracting Officer’s issuance of a modification exercising such. The parties agree that the Statement of Work can be accomplished with the categories of labor and the quantities shown above. The rates shown under the total estimated cost column are fully burdened rates including profit.

TO:

The Government may exercise the option for the work set forth below by the Contracting Officer’s issuance of a modification exercising such. The parties agree that the Statement of Work can be accomplished with the categories of labor and the quantities shown above **in Section B.3, Estimated Cost**. The rates shown under the total estimated cost column are fully burdened rates including profit.

(2) Section L.10 “Specific SIR Instructions”, Volume III is revised as indicated below:

a. The following sentence has been amended –

FROM:

Part A - Technical Proposal

The Technical Proposal shall contain six sections, which shall be constructed as follows:

TO:

Part A - Technical Proposal

The Technical Proposal shall contain **four** sections, which shall be constructed as follows:

(3) Section L.10 “Specific SIR Instructions”, Volume IV is revised as indicated below:

a. The following sentence has been amended –

FROM:

The past performance questionnaires must (1) reflect contract award values of at least \$300,000.00, (2) have been active between FY 2000 to the present, and (3) contain a period of performance of at least one year.

TO:

The past performance questionnaires must (1) reflect contract award values of at least \$300,000.00, (2) have been active between FY 2000 to the present, (3) contain a period of performance of at least one year, **and (4) represent work preformed on 3 separate contracts.**

(4) The following is a summary of questions received as of August 5, 2010 along with the corresponding responses.

- a) Regarding the NEXTOR II activity, is it the FAA's intent to accept one proposal or will the FAA accept/award multiple proposals for the activity?

Answer: The FAA will accept and evaluate all proposals submitted in accordance with SIR Section L.10 – Specific SIR Instructions. The proposal evaluations may result in the FAA making more than one award (multiple awards). See SIR Section M.1.6, 3.2.2.3-34 Evaluating Offers for Multiple Awards (July 2004).

- b) Could you please define the relevance of the size standard of 500?

Answer: Size standards are relevant to small businesses anticipating submitting proposals. They must qualify under the size standard established by Small Business Administration (SBA) for that particular NAICS code. For the code (541712) contained in this SIR, the size standard for small businesses is 500 employees. For more information on size standards, please visit <http://www.sba.gov/size>.

- c) The SIR frequently indirectly refers to "subcontracting, teaming and consulting." Based on these references, we have assumed that these are acceptable Proposal responses. Is our assumption correct?

Answer: Yes.

- d) If subcontracting is an option, is it possible to subcontract with companies or consultants who may already have other contractual relationship(s) with FAA? (e.g. Boeing, L3, etc.)

Answer: Yes.

- e) If teaming is an option, is it possible to team with a university or institution that is not on the list of approved universities for NEXTOR II?

Answer: No universities have been pre-approved. All universities or educational institutions are encouraged to participate.

- f) In Section F.2 on page 19 there is a reference to “category of labor and the quantities shown above.” However, the labor quantities are not shown on page 19, does this refer to Section B. 3 “ESTIMATE OF COST,” which must be completed by the bidder?

Answer: Yes. Also see guidance in part 1 (a) above.

- g) In section H.8 TASK ORDER PROCEDURES, on page 34 of the SIR, the sub paragraph titled “Processing of task orders” states: “Prior to the issuance of a Task Order, the Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) will submit a task order package describing work to be performed, the schedule of performance, authorized travel, any Government-furnished data, and required deliverables.” The Contractor will then have 5 working days to notify the FAA CO if any part of the TO is outside the scope of work or the Contractor can submit a proposal and work plan, a cost proposal providing, a ceiling value of the proposed work, a list of personnel with resumes who are assigned to the task, and any additional information deemed appropriate. Does that mean that specifics regarding the number of personnel required to perform the task and their resumes with their commitment for employment is not due until the task order package describing actual work to be performed is received?

Answer: Yes.

- h) Does that also mean that any estimates in the SIR proposal are just that, estimates, and may be modified without penalty when the task package is received?

Answer: No. The hours proposed are estimates and subject to change. The rates proposed should be actual rates in accordance with the instructions contained under each Contract Line Item Number (CLIN).

- i) Does it also mean that subcontract personnel commitments will not be required until the details of the TO are known since it would be impossible to commit a subcontractor to an indefinite task before a TO is in hand?

Answer: Yes.

- j) If subcontracting is allowed, how and where should subcontractor pricing be incorporated into the SIR Proposal?

Answer: Subcontract pricing should be included in Section B.3 of the proposal.

- k) If teaming with an institution not previously approved, how and where should you disclose that information and pricing?

Answer: There are no pre-approved universities.

- l) Reference Part IV - Section L Instructions, Conditions and Notices to Offerors, Volume III Part A, page 79. "The Technical Proposal shall contain SIX sections, which shall be constructed as follows:" Should that statement read FOUR sections since the narrative that follows addresses only FOUR sections?

Answer: Statement should read four sections instead of six. Also see guidance in part 2 (a) above.

- m) In 1996, proposals for NEXTOR were submitted as consortia of universities. With this in mind and in light of the success of the current NEXTOR consortium model: Will university consortium or team-based proposals be permissible for NEXTOR II?

Answer: Yes.

- n) If yes, does the FAA have a particular interest or preference in receiving proposals from consortia or is the preference to receive proposals from individual entities?

Answer: One proposal representing the team is required.

- o) The initial announcement under the Posting (brief abstract): the opportunity reads like this is a contract for a business interest, not necessarily a university. Yet, as performance requirements are established it is clear this is a solicitation for academia. Can you explain why the proposal was written this way?

Answer: This is a standard Cost Reimbursable IDIQ contract for Research and Development. It is an open competition where all interested parties are encouraged to participate.

- p) Second, the estimated costs have titles and hours in place in each area of the multiple year budget forms. Were those placeholders generated as examples of the kind of labor costs you believe will be necessary to complete work or are they reflections of maximum amounts for each area in the budget?

Answer: No rates have been presented, only estimated hours for each labor category.

- q) If working with corporations already assigned and working on projects for the FAA is to be reflected as part of the Statement of Work; it is assumed by the contractor that the costs associated with the corporations task assigned responsibilities will continue to be paid for as a separate cost factor and should not be reflected in this contract. Are we correct in assuming this in developing the budgets?

Answer: All FAA contracts/requirements are treated as separate entities. Work/costs associated with each contract is charged/applied to the contract for which it was established.

- r) Screening Information Request DTFWA-10-R-00031, page 79, 80 & 81. If the contractor does not want to submit for funding in each of the Technical Areas of Work and their sub-areas can they simply submit information accordingly for the areas in which they wish to focus their research and request funding to support their expertise?

Answer: A responsive proposal must address all listed areas and sub-areas. Please refer to Section L.10, Volume 3 Part A1.

- s) In the same regard, are there any examples of previously funded activities that could serve as a model for contractors to use to define the SOW. As participates in the Market Analysis Response, some of the information requested is similar to what was requested in the analysis; yet there is enough variation to be of concern for some of the faculty considering the deadline for submission for this opportunity.

Answer: No.

- t) If a team of universities and corporations wishes to submit, would you prefer separate proposals from each with reference to the other partners or would you prefer one proposal for the team?

Answer: One proposal representing the team is required.

- u) On page 84, Section M.1.1, it is stated that "Award will be made to The Offeror..." This would seem to imply that a single award will be made. On the other hand, on page 85, there is discussion of the possibility of multiple awards. Could you clarify this? Specifically, are multiple awards possible? Are multiple awards likely?

Answer: Yes, the FAA may make more than one award (multiple awards), as stated in SIR Section M.1.6, 3.2.2.3-34 Evaluating Offers for Multiple Awards (July 2004).

- v) Is there a dollar limit on a single award?

Answer: That will depend on how many awards are made. If only one award is made, it will be limited to the NTE amount listed in SIR Section B.2.

- w) If a team of organizations submits a single proposal, is it possible for individual contracts to be awarded to each team member or is it required that a submitting team be awarded a single contract so that one member would be the prime contractor and all other members subcontractors?

Answer: One award will be made per team.

- x) On page 82 of the SIR, the requirements of Volume IV of the proposal (the Past Performance Questionnaire) are given. The following questions relate to this section. It is stated that questionnaires must be provided from three different clients. Is it possible that these be provided by different clients within the same Federal agency. For example, for existing NEXTOR schools could two of the clients be two different sponsoring organizations both within the FAA?

Answer: The Offeror must provide 3 past performance questionnaires representing experience in similar scope (complexity and magnitude) from 3 separate contracts. Also see guidance in part 3 (a) above.

- y) For responses to the SIR submitted by a multi-school team, is it necessary that each of the three questionnaires be provided in relation to projects on which the prime contractor on the SIR response was the prime contractor on the referenced project? For example, suppose schools A, B and C are responding to the SIR and that school A is the prime on the submission. Is it possible that one of the questionnaires reference a project on which school B was the prime contractor?

Answer: It is at the offeror team's discretion.

- z) The following questions refer to section F.6: Substitution or Addition of Personnel. Universities make extensive use of students in the pursuit of research projects. In many cases it is difficult to specify several months in advance the names of students who will be assigned to a project. This section seems to imply that the names of all students who will work on the initial NEXTOR projects must be provided with the submission of the proposal. Is this the case? Will any special allowances be made for students who work on projects or will they be subjected to the strict interpretation of the rules given in this section?

Answer: The names of the students to be assigned to work on NEXTOR projects are not due at the submission of the proposal.

- aa) Can multiple institutes submit a combined proposal?

Answer: Yes, teaming arrangements are permitted.

bb) Would you expect that our school submit a proposal to act as a new co-lead, or as a university partner? That is, in our proposal, should we assume that we would be equivalent to incumbent universities? Or would we be proposing to act as a partner?

Answer: The incumbent universities will have to compete on an equal basis with the other offerors, and all successful respondents will be evaluated against the same factors.

cc) Would you expect that our school propose as part of a team or individually? That is, is it expected that our school partner with other Universities under the same proposal?

Answer: Universities may choose to submit individual proposals or team proposals. All proposals will be considered on the same basis, whether the submission comes from an individual university or a team.

dd) Lastly, will awards be made in addition to the existing NEXTOR universities, or will a new set, which may or may not include the current core and/or partner universities, be chosen for award?

Answer: This is an open competition. All eligible offerors are encouraged to participate. See v above.

ee) The posting on the FAACO page references NAICS Code 541712 but doesn't make clear whether this solicitation is a small business set-aside under that NAICS Code or whether it is unrestricted.

Answer: It is unrestricted.

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